

Friday January 29, 2016

Good Friday afternoon everyone! As you probably noticed, our contractor on the Oak/Washington project was back this week to install the “tree stump” seating at that intersection and to finish up some punch list items. I continue to hear lots of support for the end product from customers and property owners alike. It was great to hear that one of the corner buildings on Oak and Jackson was recently purchased by a group of local business owners who plan to open a new business at that location.



We are continuing to work with DRA and NeighborWorks Umpqua on a small grant for Arts Integration in the Heart of Roseburg. As you may recall, our EDC is contributing \$5,000 to match NeighborWorks grant allocation of \$8,000 and we will apply for a \$5,000 TA grant through a local foundation once we select a consultant. The RFP responses have been received and we will be scoring those and selecting a consultant in the next week or so. The program will be overseen by NeighborWorks Umpqua with significant input from staff, DRA and the Arts Center. We work collaboratively with these local partners to incorporate art and culture into economic development opportunities.

We were approached by representatives of a group that is reforming to discuss options for funding the County Library System. The group approached Council in late 2011 regarding formation of County Service District that would have taxing authority to provide operating revenue to run the entire library system. Based on preliminary information, they likely will be considering formation of a separate special district that would have its own board and be a separate entity from Douglas County. They have asked to make a presentation to Council at your February 8 meeting. I provided them with a list of questions that Council asked during the last process so everyone can be prepared to have a discussion. One of the obvious questions that we are both trying to answer is what amount of tax compression would occur if a library permanent rate were approved. Similar to the last discussion, if they move forward, each City Council will eventually be asked in advance to opt in or out of the District boundary. Much more to follow!



Our entire leadership staff met yesterday at a “budget retreat” in the Salmon Room at the PSC to review our current financial situation and to begin the annual internal budget process for next fiscal year, 2016-17. I am very encouraged by the team approach that

our departments have taken over the last few years in supporting our highest priority services and acknowledging how important it is to carry out our core mission and support Council and department goals through the budget process. Finance will incorporate suggested budget increases into our forecast model in advance of the budget committee process and we will evaluate the impacts. One of our challenges moving forward will be appropriate tax revenue forecasting. The information for this year is not readily available, but appears to be coming in lower than expected. This will clearly impact our modeling as property taxes provide almost 100% of our Urban Renewal revenue and almost 65% of our current General Fund operating revenue. We will continue to keep you posted as we learn more.

And, to end on a very happy note, I wanted to let you all know that we have been working with representatives from the Portland Trailblazer organization on their plans to provide an entertainment and recognition opportunity at their game in Portland this weekend relating to the UCC October 1st incident. This will include folks from UCC and all of the local agencies that provided first responder public safety and emergency



responses as well as health and mental health responses. The Blazers will be hosting over 250 local folks who were impacted by the tragedy to let them, and our community, know how important they are, and that the Blazers want to support our healing and recovery process. You may recall we hosted an event in the lot by the YMCA this last summer and the same people who organized that event reached out to us to see if they could do anything to help. This is a very generous offer and I know that many of those folks were moved by that generosity.

There is no Council meeting next week, but it looks like the Parks Commission will be meeting next Wednesday. Have a great weekend everyone!